



**PATENT APPLICATION
Q-78288**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Heinz FOCKE, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/700,059

Group Art Unit: 3721

Confirmation No.: 3090

Examiner: NOT YET KNOWN

Filed: November 4, 2003

For: PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR CHECKING ROD-LIKE ARTICLES, IN
PARTICULAR CIGARETTES

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the non-U.S. patent documents is submitted herewith. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i), the undersigned is not submitting copies of the cited U.S. patents.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first

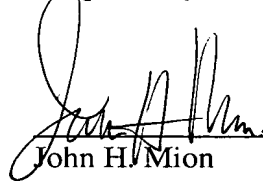
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
U.S. APPLN. NO. 10/700,059

Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a counterpart German and European Search Reports citing such documents, together with English-language versions of those portions of the Search Report indicating the degree of relevance found by the German and European Patent Offices.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



John H. Mion
Registration No. 18,879

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
(202) 663-7901

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: April 12, 2004

Substitute for form 1449 A & B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number	10/700,059
				Confirmation Number	3090
				Filing Date	November 4, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Heinz FOCKE
				Art Unit	3721
				Examiner Name	NOT YET KNOWN
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	Q78288

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US 3,874,227		4/1/1975	Heinz FOCKE
		US 4,899,889		2/13/1990	Antonio GAMBERINI et al
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		DE	199 19 207	A1	11/2/2000	FOCKE & CO. (GmbH & Co.)	
		DE	37 29 213	A1	3/15/1989	FOCKE & CO. (GmbH & Co.)	
		DE	29 18 030		11/13/1980	Hauni-Werke Korber & Co. KG	
		GB	1 271 375		7/31/1961	MOLINS MACHINE COMPANY, LTD.	
		FR	1 122 720		9/12/1956	ARENCO AKTIEBOLAG	
		EP	1 048 568	A1	11/2/2000	FOCKE & CO. (GmbH & Co.)	
		DE	37 33 955	A1	4/21/1988	GD SPA	
		DE	2 311 084		9/26/197	Hauni-Werke Korber & Co. KG	

OTHER ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
--------------------	--	-----------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is indicate here if English language Translation is attached.